

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 5-10 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2 and 8 have been amended, and Claims 9 and 10 have been added by the present amendment without introducing new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to; Claim 2 was objected to; Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Cunningham (U.S. Patent 4,943,086) in view of Katsuda et al. (U.S. Patent 6,053,531, herein “Katsuda”); and Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Cunningham in view of Katsuda and further in view of Cabrera et al. (U.S. Patent 6,123,359, herein “Cabrera”).

Applicants want to thank Examiner David Dunn for the courtesies extended to Applicants’ representatives, Go Sayamoto and Christopher Ward, during the personal interview conducted on October 6, 2004. During the interview, proposed amendments to the claims and arguments in support of the claims’ patentability were presented. In particular, it was pointed out that Cunningham fails to disclose or suggest that the housing, e.g. the top plate and side cylinder portions of the upper lid, and the bottom plate and side cylinder portions of the lower lid, has substantially the same thickness. For example, it was pointed out that Cunningham fails to disclose or suggest the claim limitation, “... said housing having substantially the same thickness except for the thickened wall portion” as recited in amended Claims 1 and 8, and that Cunningham also fails to disclose or suggest the claim limitation, “... said lower lid having substantially the same thickness except for the thickened wall portion,” and “... said upper lid having substantially the same thickness” as recited, respectively, in new Claims 9 and 10.

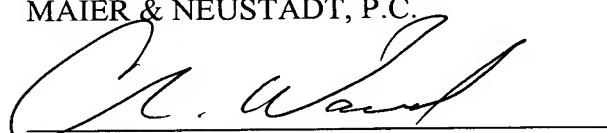
Applicants also want to thank the Examiner for the indication given during the interview that amended Claims 1 and 8 and new Claims 9 and 10 appear to define over the applied art and appear to be allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit herein the amendments to the claims presented during the personal interview. These claim amendments find support in Figure 1, for example. No new matter is added.

In response to the objections to the drawings and Claim 2, Claim 2 has been amended in light of the comments noted in the Office Action. Also, the specification has been amended to reflect the similar change. No new matter is added. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested these objections be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the discussion held during the interview, the above discussion, and in view of the present amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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